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FOUNDERS of electrical science, from Gilbert to Henry.

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PORTRAITS OF FOUNDERS
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ELECTRICAL SCIENCE.

The engravings in the following pages were made from authentic portraits to accompany a series of biographical articles which appeared in the columns of the AMERICAN ELECTRICIAN several years ago. All of the greater names in electrical science in the period from Gilbert to Henry are represented except that of Coulomb. A fruitless search was made in France, in which an eminent member of the Academie des Sciences joined, for an authentic portrait of the latter, and it is probable that none exists.

The portraits of Gilbert and Guericke were engraved from water-color drawings made from prints appearing in o nal editions of their writings. The original of the G. ·ani portrait is in a collected edition of his works made under the auspices of the Academy of Sciences of Bologna. The portrait of Volta was engraved from a valuable print sent on loan for the purpose by an Italian savant. The original of the Faraday portrait is a rare engraving owned by Mr. W. J. Hammer. The original of the Ampere portrait was pronounced an excellent likeness by several friends still living of that savant, to whom it was submitted. The Becquerel and Henry portraits were reproduced from photographs. The originals of the Davy and Franklin cuts are well-known engravings accepted as the best portraitures of the distinguished subjects.

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GILBERT

(1540-1603)

First distinguished between electrical and magnetic attraction, and showed that electrical attraction is distinct from the substance of electrified bodies. Demonstrated almost all of the properties of the magnet.

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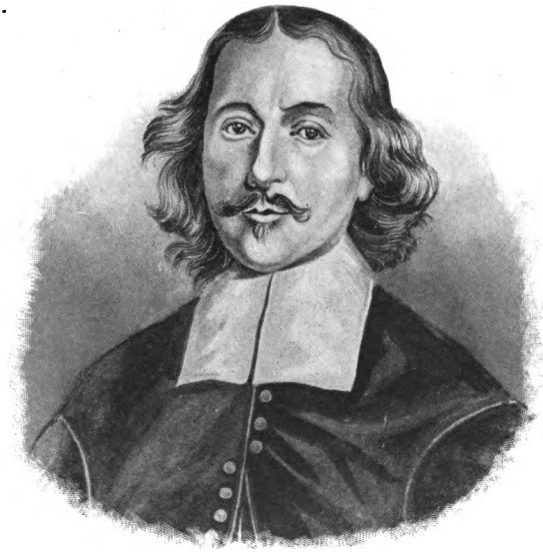

GUERICKE

(1602-1686)

Made the first electrical machine—a static generator. Discovered that light could be produced from electricity, and asserted the identity of lightning and electricity.

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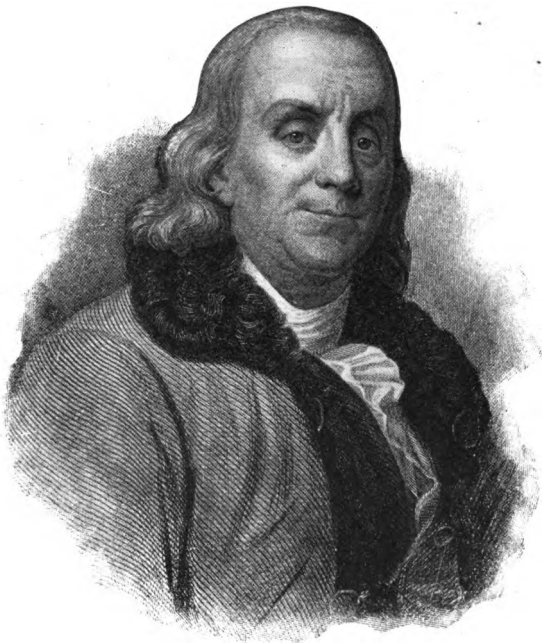

FRANKLIN

(1706-1790)

Propounded the single-fluid theory of electricity. Definitely laid down the principles of the lightning rod. Experimentally established the main principles of the Leyden jar.

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GALVANI

(1737-1798)

Discovered contact electricity, but did not recognize the significance of his discovery. His greatest title to fame lies in having by his work directed the attention of Volta to the subject.

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VOLTA

(1745-1827)

The era of modern electricity began with Volta. His great discovery of the voltaic cell enabled electrical energy to be generated for the first time in appreciable quantity, and thus started modern electrical development.

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DAVY

(1778-1829)

Principal founder of the science of electro-chemistry. Possessed of a large voltaic battery, he produced the electric arc on a large scale at lectures, thereby greatly enhancing popular interest in electricity.

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AMPERE

(1775-1836)

Founder of the mathematical theory of electricity, and that part of the science of electromagnetism which deals with the attraction and repulsion of electric currents.

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FARADAY

(1791-1867)

Discovered electromagnetic induction, the laws of electrolytic action, and the magnetic rotation of the plane of polarization of light. His discoveries and work laid the foundation upon which almost all electrical science and its modern industrial applications rest.

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HENRY

(1797-1878)

Made and used the first operative telegraph. Independently discovered electromagnetic induction, but did not follow up his discovery. The first to investigate self-induction and oscillatory discharges.

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BECQUEREL

(1788-1878)

Discovered the principles of voltaic polarization, from which followed the practical primary battery. The principal founder of the art of electro-plating, and one of the founders of electro-chemistry.

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